

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 165772

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 5045 ACTION SECSTATE 12 JUL 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5045

NODIS

CHDROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, LE, US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S CONCERN ABOUT AMBASSADOR PARKER

REF: TEL AVIV 4995

1. WHEN I SAW PRIME MINISTER BEGIN JULY 8, HE TALKED

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AT LENGTH ABOUT LEBANON, AS I HAVE REPORTED IN REFTTEL.
HE ALSO RAISED ONE RELATED QUESTION WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY
DELICATE AND WHICH I DID NOT REPORT IN THAT PREVIOUS
MESSAGE.

2. BEGIN SAID GENTLY BUT MEANINGFULLY THAT HE HAD
INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT AMBASSADOR PARKER IN

BEIRUT WAS ADVISING THE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP "NOT TO TALK TO THE ISRAELIS." (I BELIEVE THAT BEGIN'S SOURCE IS GENERAL GUR, ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF, WHO HAS APPARENTLY HEARD THIS FROM ONE OF THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS WITH WHOM THE ISRAELI MILITARY IS IN FREQUENT CONTACT.) BEGIN SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THIS WAS "NOT A VERY NICE WAY FOR AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO BEHAVE," IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH THE CHRISTIANS HAD FOUND THEMSELVES AND THE FACT THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED SUPPORT ONLY FROM ISRAEL OVER THE LAST TRAGIC MONTHS AND YEARS. HE ASKED ME TO REPORT THIS PROBLEM TO YOU IN A CONFIDENTIAL FASHION.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS SURPRISED BY THIS REPORT, SINCE I KNEW FROM AMBASSADOR PARKER'S REPORTING THAT HE WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS CONTINUOUSLY TO TRY TO CLAM THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AND TO REASSURE THEM ABOUT ISRAEL'S INTENTIONS, AMID A PHETHORA OF CONTINUAL RUMORS ABOUT ALLEGED ISRAELI INVASION PLANS. I SAID I COULD IMAGINE AMBASSADOR PARKER HAVING CAUTIONED THE CHRISTIANS ABOUT SEEKING ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPORT IN ANY OVERT FASION, SINCE THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES WITH RESPECT TO THE SYRIAN ROLE MIGHT BE QUITE DANGEROUS, BUT I DOUBTED FRANKLY THATNHE HAD EVER ADVISED THE CHRISTIANS "NOT TO TALK TO THE ISRAELIS." I SAID I WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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4. IN REVIEWING PREVIOUS MESSAGES FROM BEIRUT, I AM STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT DANY CHAMOUN SEEMS TO BE A CONTINUAL ALARMIST ABOUT ALLEGED ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS WHICH ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE. I AM ALSO AWARE THAT DANY CHAMOUN IS IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH THE ISRAELIS. THERE IS SOMETHING PECULIAR ABOUT THIS SET OF RELATIONSHIPS WHICH I CANNOT QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON. BUT I AM TRYING TO DIG INTO IT DISCREETLY AT THIS END.

5. IN ANY EVENT, HOWEVER, I THINK IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR YOU TO SAY TO BEGIN AT SOME STAGE THAT I HAD REPORTED HIS CONCERNS TO YOU ABOUT AMBASSADOR PARKER, AND THAT YOU CAN REASSURE HIM ON THE POINT. I LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION HOW MUCH OF THIS TO CONVEY TO PARKER.

LEWIS

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

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